

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19608 161617Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SMS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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R 161550Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5650
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, MILL, UR, US, XF
SUBJECT: TASS COMMENTS ON CAMP DAVID MEETING

REF: MOSCOW 19235

SUMMARY: TASS ACCUSES THE U.S. OF AIMING AT
ESTABLISHING ITS DOMINATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST
THROUGH THE CAMP DAVID MEETING. THE ARTICLE
REFLECTS HEIGHTENED FEELINGS OF CONCERN AND FRUS-
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 19608 161617Z

TRATION IN MOSCOW AS THE PACE OF MIDEAST DIPLOMACY
QUICKENS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRAVDA AUGUST 15 CARRIES TASS ITEM HEADLINED
"DANGEROUS PLANS" WHICH ACCUSES WASHINGTON OF
"OPENLY FORCING ITS CONDITIONS FOR A SETTLEMENT"
ON THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES. IT IS BECOMING

OBVIOUS, TASS WRITES, THAT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING IS CALCULATED BY THE U.S. TO ESTABLISH ITS "DIRECT DOMINATION" IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE FACT THAT "ITS SO-CALLED NEW, 'CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES'" INCLUDE A PROPOSAL FOR DEPLOYING A CONTINGENT OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN THE ROLE OF GUARANTOR OF THIS "SEPARATE DEAL" SUPPORTS - IN TASS' VIEW - THIS ANALYSIS.

2. TASS FURTHER STATES THAT THE U.S. "ATTEMPT OF OPEN INTERFERENCE" IS AROUSING ARAB CONCERN, AND SUMMARIZES COMMENT IN A LEBANESE AND AN IRAQI PAPER TO THE EFFECT THAT THE U.S. IS AIMING TO SUPPLEMENT ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS WITH ITS OWN, AND ESTABLISH CONTROL FROM THE SINAI TO THE WEST BANK. THE TASS ITEM GOES ON TO CRITICIZE "OCTOBER" EDITOR MANSOUR FOR SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S INTENTION "TO TAKE INTO HIS OWN HANDS" A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT (CAIRO 18880), AND CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT WESTERN PRESS AGENCIES ARE REPORTING BEGIN'S PLAN TO ESTABLISH FIVE NEW SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK.

3. PRAVDA AUGUST 16 CARRIES SEVERAL TASS ITEMS ON THE CAMP DAVID MEETING UNDER A GENERAL HEADLINE "AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE ARABS." SECRETARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 19608 161617Z

VANCE'S PRESENTATION BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IS SAID TO BE ASSESSED BY "OBSERVERS" AS "UNAMBIGUOUS CONFIRMATION OF WASHINGTON'S SUPPORT OF THE HARD LINE OF BEGIN'S GOVERNMENT, REJECTING THE POSSIBILITY OF ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK . . . AND IDEA OF CREATING AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE."

4. COMMENT: TASS ITEM PUBLISHED AUGUST 15 FOLLOWS UP THE ORIGINAL REPORT AND COMMENT ON THE ALLEGED TROOP PROPOSAL (REFTEL), AND LIKE THE PREVIOUS ITEM IS LENT AUTHORITY BY THE ABSENCE OF THE USUAL OPENING DATE-LINE. IT DOES NOT REPEAT THE ORIGINAL TASS WARNING THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. TROOPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD MEET WITH A REBUFF FROM THE SOVIET UNION AS WELL AS THE ARABS. THIS MIGHT SIGNIFY A SOFTENING OF THE ORIGINAL RESPONSE ON THIS POINT. HOWEVER, THE AUGUST 15 ITEM HAS A BROADER FOCUS, AND CONVEYS THE FEELINGS OF CONCERN AND FRUSTRATION FELT BY THE SOVIETS AT THE TURN OF EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY. THIS TASS ITEM IGNORES THE MIDDLE EAST SEGMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S

U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT INTERVIEW (THE SALT SEGMENT
IS CARRIED ELSEWHERE IN PRAVDA) OR THE CLARIFICATION
OF THE WEST BANK SETTLEMENT STORY. TOON

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